

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Lawrence Lile

Application No. **Not Yet Assigned**

Filed: **April 20, 2004**

For: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR ALERTING
A USER TO CLEAN APPLIANCE

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Antonietta Musto

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATIONS
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

The above-identified application is a divisional of Application No. 10/126,871, filed April 19, 2002. Please amend the instant application as follows.

Please enter the following amendment and amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following heading and paragraph on Page 1 after the title:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS:

This is a divisional of copending U.S. Application No. 10/126,871, filed on April 19, 2002, which is incorporated herein by reference to the extent permitted by law.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute claims 1-31 with the following:

1-23. (Cancelled).

24. (Original) A method, comprising the steps of:
counting a number of times a household appliance is activated;
determining when the number reaches a set value; and
when it is determined that the number reaches the set value, providing an indication that the number reached the set value.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the indication is audible.

26. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the indication is visual.

27. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein when it is determined that the number reaches the set value, the method further comprises the step of disabling the household appliance.

28. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the set value is adjustable.

29. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising the steps of:

receiving an indication to set the counter equal to zero; and

setting the counter equal to zero.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of opening a crumb tray.

31. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the household appliance comprises a toaster.

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the above-identified application. With this Amendment, Claims 1-23 have been cancelled.